

**CITY OF VIROQUA
COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 9, 2018**

1. Roll call:

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 by Mayor Larry Fanta with Alderpersons Marc Polsean, Mike Koppa, Mike Bankes, Cyndy Hubbard, John Thompson, Sondra Naxi and Jeff Gohlke present. Alderperson Bekkedal and Noble were excused. Also present were City Administrator John Severson, City Clerk Lori Polhamus, Attorney George Hopkins, Police Chief Daron Jefson, Public Works Director/Engineer Sarah Grainger, Fire Chief Chad Buros, Park & Rec Director Dan Stalsberg, Utility Clerk Cheryl Purvis, Karen Mischel, Kathy Hanson, Tim Hundt, Kenneth Franzen, Tanja Birke, Evan Blattner, Jim Hallberg, Jenny Cain, Sandra Berger, Christina Dollhausen, Jean Krings and Kathy Doerfer.

2. Approval of the December 5, 2017 Special and December 12, 2017 Regular Council minutes – Alderperson Gohlke stated under item four on the December 12, 2017 minutes the word removal should be changed to removable. Motion by Alderperson Polsean/second by Alderperson Gohlke to approve the minutes from the previous meetings as amended. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

3. First period for public comment – none

4. Public hearing on conditional use application by Bug Tussel Wireless to build a 195-foot utility structure/communication tower for wireless internet, cellular and first responder program off Mahoney Road- The public hearing was opened at 7:32 p.m. Kenneth Franzen of Bug Tussel Wireless stated this will be a self-supporting tower. It will be non-lit and the FAA compliance as a no-hazard to air traffic was already completed. There will be wireless through AT&T and the Firstnet responder program using the tower with the possibility of renting space to other entities. They will be building an access road that will be maintained by them. They also need to work with the FCC, Fish/Wildlife and DNR after obtaining the proper zoning permits so this would be a summer timeline before it is built. Sandra Berger is concerned about the electromagnetic fields produced by these towers and other health issues. The radius of the signal depends on the terrain and they have 13-16 towers proposed in Vernon County. Jenny Cain asked why the first responder system couldn't use the existing towers. Evan Blatner suggested adding the system to our water tower instead. Jean Krings stated that a tower at Anderson Road and Hwy J was already approved and asked why do we need another tower so close to that one. Tanja Birke stated more research needs to be completed on this and recommends a delay on the vote. The public hearing was closed at 8:00 p.m.

5. Consideration of conditional use application by Bug Tussel Wireless to build a 195-foot utility structure/communication tower (Plan Commission) – Attorney Hopkins stated we do not currently have a cell tower ordinance in place and in 2013 the state took the power away from municipalities in regulating these towers under state statute 66.0404. Motion by Alderperson Koppa/second by Alderperson Hubbard to table this application for thirty days until the February 13th Council meeting to obtain additional information. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried. The public was encouraged to submit their questions relating to this subject in writing to City Hall.

6. Discussion on series of summer concerts in Eckhart Park – Christina Dollhausen- Dollhausen addressed the Council about the idea of a summer series of music mid-week during June, July and August in Eckhart Park. This would be in the evenings 6 – 8:30 p.m. and free to the public. They would like to use the shelter as well. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Koppa to send this discussion to the Park & Rec Committee for further review. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

7. Approval of Badger Environmental Pay Request #3 – Hwy 14 Liftstation (Public Works)- Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Gohlke to approve pay request #3 for \$33,532.27. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

8. Approval of Change Order #4 – Wastewater Treatment Facility project (Public Works)- Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Gohlke to approve change order #4 for \$66,436.82. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

9. Approval of Wapasha Construction Co. Pay Request #16 – Wastewater Treatment Facility project (Public Works)- Motion by Alderperson Polsean/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve pay request #16 for \$507,123.03. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

10. Payment of bills (Finance) – Motion by Alderperson Gohlke/second by Alderperson Polsean to approve the payment of bills on report date 01/04/18 in the amount of \$125,782.86 and additional bills on report date 01/09/2018 in the amount of \$176,445.89. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

11. Second Period for Public Comment – none

12. Adjournment - Motion made by Alderperson Polsean/second by Alderperson Naxi to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk